

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. – Day-Riverside Branch, Glendale/Rosepark, Utah

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
President Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phil Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Okerlund called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and indicated the areas of the state that they represent.

2. Overview of Redistricting

Mr. Allred gave a presentation on what redistricting is, why it is done, and the redistricting principles that were adopted at the May 4, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Wade gave an overview of the redistricting public website, RedistrictUtah.com. Mr. Wade also demonstrated the online redistricting tool that allows the public to create redistricting plans.

3. Presentation of Redistricting Plans

Chair Okerlund gave an overview of a randomly selected congressional map entitled “4 Congress Seats 1 C” submitted on RedistrictUtah.com by Matt Gore.

Chair Okerlund also gave an overview of a randomly selected school board plan entitled “School Board Plan 57” submitted on RedistrictUtah.com by Robert Horning. Chair Okerlund responded to questions from the public.

A women from the audience asked if undocumented people were considered part of the redistricting principle of "one person one vote." Mr. Fellows explained that the Committee uses census total population and the census does count undocumented people.

Rep. Sumsion gave an overview of a randomly selected house plan entitled “Brian Voeks - State House - Plan 4” submitted on RedistrictUtah.com by Brian Voeks.

Rep. Sumsion gave an overview of a randomly selected senate plan entitled “One Great Plan” submitted on RedistrictUtah.com by Gary Hawes.

Sen. McAdams Presented a Senate plan entitled “Utah Senate - McAdams Plan C.” He said he started drawing in Tooele County and that he tried to keep natural boundaries intact as much as possible. He asked for feedback from the public and responded to questions.

Rep. King presented a House plan entitled “Utah House - King Plan A” and explained his rationale. He said his map preserves a rural House district in Utah. He said he tried to keep communities of interest intact as much as possible. He responded to questions from the public and the Committee.

4. State Board of Education

Mr. Larry Shumway, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, explained how the school boards are created in response to a citizen's question. He also responded to additional questions from the public.

Mr. Martell Menlove, Utah State Office of Education Deputy Superintendent, discussed and passed out a school district plan entitled “Menlove.” He also said the State Board of Education would submit a formal plan. He responded to questions from the Committee.

5. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting

Mr. John Jackson said the most important factor to consider in drawing maps is to make sure that people have a voice. He also said considering where current elected officials live should not be considered when drawing maps.

Sen. Luz Robles, Senate District 1, said she was concerned about maps she has seen dividing Davis and Salt Lake Counties. She said it is important to keep the voices of representation within those areas.

Ms. Jill Remington Love, Salt Lake City Council Chair, thanked the Committee for holding the meeting in her area. She requested that the Redistricting Committee keep Salt Lake City contained in one congressional district. She responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City Mayor, asked the Committee to be respectful of the Salt Lake community and to be fair in drawing boundaries. He said that some areas of Salt Lake are currently divided through political boundaries and asked the committee to create boundaries that make sense.

Rep. Becky Edwards, House District 20, asked the Committee to keep Salt Lake County together. She said she was encouraged by the maps she saw this evening.

Mr. David Acheson, Utah County Republican Party Chair, said he supports the “Senate - Okerlund Plan B.” He said that he wants five fully seated senate seats in Utah County.

Ms. Mary Bishop, Salt Lake County Democratic Party, said that competition among the districts is important. She said the public is well served when the one person one vote principle is adhered to.

Mr. Billy Palmer, Glendale resident, said that west Salt Lake and downtown have some of the most diverse neighborhoods in Utah and asked the Committee to keep that in mind when drawing maps. He asked the Committee to keep Glendale and Rose Park in one district because of the similar demographics.

Ms. Edie Trimmer, Poplar Grove resident, thanked the Committee for the process that allows the public to draw maps. She asked about the process of future meetings and how to follow redistricting. Chair Okerlund explained the redistricting schedule and said she could continue to stay involved by attending future meetings and visiting RedistrictUtah.com. She also said that people can better represent areas if they live in those areas. She also said that her neighborhood needs someone who lives in and understands their neighborhood to adequately represent them.

Mr. Brian Ferguson, North Salt Lake resident, said he is concerned about "Complete House Plan Version 2" map because of the way it divides Salt Lake and Davis County. He also said that South Davis County considers themselves a community of interest.

Mr. John O'Donnell, Tooele Democratic Party Chair, said he appreciates Sen. McAdams's Senate map because it keeps Tooele County together. He also said that he hopes that what happened ten years ago with changes made to the maps on the floor does not happen this time.

Mr. George Bradley, citizen, said that people need to have common ground and the vote is taken away from people when the boundaries are divided.

Ms. Luci Kelly, Avenues precinct liaison, said the process is not fair when the legislature draws their own lines and recommended a non-partisan committee take over the process of redistricting.

Mr. Robbie Archeleta, Utah Citizen's Counsel, said that we should promote meaningful competition between political parties rather than single political parties which effectively silence the voice of people.

Mr. Leon Johnson, Democratic Party, said that Utah should have a redistricting plan established by a bi-partisan commission. He said that gerrymandering hurts both parties and should not be done.

Mr. Jordan Gates, Rose Park resident, said he supported "Utah House -- King Plan A" and "Utah Senate - McAdams Plan C". He also said it is important for Rose Park to maintain the voice they have obtained. He said his community has been very well represented by Sen. Robles and Rep. Seelig.

Ms. Colleen Baird, citizen, said there is great diversity in Rose Park and Glendale and asked to keep those regions together.

Ms. JoAnn Anderson, Rose Park resident, asked the Committee to keep Rose Park together.

Mr. Ryan Pleune, citizen, said a non-partisan citizen commission would be a good addition to the current redistricting process. He also asked a narrative to be included in the proposed maps explaining how it is not partisan and how it helps increase competition.

Ms. Julie Dole, Salt Lake County Republican Party Chair, thanked the Committee for its work and said she thought Utah will have fair maps when the process is complete.

Rep. Sagers, House District 21, said he had concerns about "Utah Senate - Okerlund Plan B" and "Complete House Plan - Version 2" plans. He also said that Tooele County needs to be kept together.

Mr. John Merrick, citizen, said he was impressed by Sen. McAdams's and Rep. King's map.

Sen. Okerlund asked the public to raise their hand if they would prefer a doughnut hole or pizza slice approach to drawing congressional maps. A large majority preferred the doughnut hole approach.

Mr. Ken Froghle, Represent Me Utah, asked the Committee to remember that it is the people's seat, not the incumbent's, when drawing maps. He commented on Sen. McAdams's plan and said that Tooele did not need to encompass Magna.

Mr. John Latter, Citizen, urged the Committee to keep the needs of the people, and not the party, in mind in redistricting.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Okerlund adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.